

## INSIDE TODAY

## WORLD NEWS

### THATK SIN TIME



Supporter of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra cries after the supreme court's verdict on Thaksin's asset at the Pheu Thai Party building in Bangkok on Friday Feb. 26, 2010. Thailand's Supreme Court ruled Friday that ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra unlawfully concealed his assets while in office and abused his power for personal gain, as it prepared to issue a decision on whether his \$2.29 billion fortune should be seized.

Read more on Page A7

## SPORTS NEWS

### PACQUIAO'S NEXT



In this Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, attends a news conference in New York to promote his upcoming fight with Joshua Clottey, of Ghana.

Read more on Page A15



A lone jogger in shorts heads across the Brooklyn Bridge towards Manhattan as a blizzard continues to blanket the New York area with snow, Friday Feb. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

## Storm rakes East; more than 1 million in dark

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A winter storm that began with a whimper parked itself Friday over the Northeast, bringing hurricane-force winds, flooding and heavy snow as it cut power to more than a million people.

In New York City, nearly 21 inches of snow had fallen by midday and flakes were still falling. A man was killed by a falling snow-laden tree branch in Central Park, one of at least three deaths being blamed on the storm.

The storm is also still battering the New England region to the north. The area is dealing with rain, snow, high winds and coastal flooding.

Most flights were canceled for the day at the three New York-area airports. But by late morning, things began clearing up to the south, with three of Philadelphia International Airport's four runways open.

Schools canceled classes in several states.

The storm brought a wide array of calamity over a broad area after getting a slow start Thursday,

when snow began falling in the Philadelphia region around dawn but didn't start sticking to the ground until dusk.

It turned out that snow — 31 inches (79 centimeters) in Monroe, New York — was only part of the story, with high winds causing havoc. The highest wind reported was 91 mph (146 kph) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire — well above hurricane force of 74 mph (119 kph). Gusts hit 60 mph (100 kph) or more from the mountains of West Virginia to New York's Long Island and Massachusetts.

In Maine, waves crashing ashore at high tide Friday morning turned beachfront streets into rivers in Saco, where storms have claimed several homes over the years.

Much of the northeastern U.S., particularly Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, only recently finished cleaning up from a pair of storms a few weeks ago.

For parts of the region, snow remains in the forecast through Monday. □



In this April 13, 2009 file photo, President Barack Obama walks with White House Social Secretary Desiree Rogers at the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. Rogers will step down as White House social secretary next month, a White House aide says.

Associated Press

## White House social secretary Rogers resigning

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— The White House social secretary is stepping down three months after an uninvited couple crashed the Obama administration's first state dinner, for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. She was heavily criticized for allowing the incident to happen.

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama issued a statement thanking Desiree Rogers, their longtime friend from Chicago, for "the terrific job she's done" organizing hundreds of events during her little more than a year on the job.

Continued on Next Page

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White House Social Secretary Desiree Rogers, right, talks with Assistant Social Secretary Samantha Tubman during the awards ceremony for the 2009 National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, seen on this photo taken Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010. Rogers will step down as White House social secretary next month, a White House aide says.

#### ROGERS RESIGNING

*Continued from Front Page*

They indicated no reason for the departure, effective sometime next month after a transition period.

*Associated Press*

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Rogers was neither forced out nor asked to leave.

"She's decided it's time to go back to doing things that she loves,"

Gibbs said Friday.

Rogers' handling of the Nov. 24 state dinner came under fire after a celebrity-seeking couple got into the exclusive South Lawn affair without a formal invitation, despite heavy White House security. As social secretary, Rogers was in charge of the event.

She later acknowledged not having staff from her office at security checkpoints to help identify guests, a departure from the practice in previous administrations. Lawmakers had demanded that she testify about her handling of the event, and one wanted to subpoena her. The White House would not allow her to testify, citing the constitutional separation of executive and legislative powers.

Tall and glamorous, Rogers also was criticized for having a profile higher than the social secretaries before her. She gave interviews, appeared in glossy magazine photo spreads and dressed in high-end designer labels.

Rogers, 50, told the Chicago Sun-Times on Friday that she was leaving because she had achieved a

major goal of the Obamas: turning the White House into the "people's house" by opening it up to many of those who normally do not get to visit.

"My work was really to create this framework. I think I completed that work," she told her hometown paper. "Our office has been able to lay the foundation for what will be known as the 'people's house' and it has already taken shape."

Rogers said she planned to explore opportunities in the corporate world, where she worked before joining the administration. She arrived in Chicago after getting an MBA and has worked at AT&T and a gas and utilities company.

Gibbs said she personally informed the Obamas of her decision.

"When she took this position, we asked Desiree to help make sure that the White House truly is the people's house and she did that by welcoming scores of everyday Americans through its doors, from wounded warriors to local schoolchildren to (race car) drivers," the president and Mrs. Obama said. □



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# NY governor abandons bid for full, 4-year term

DAVID B. CARUSO  
MICHAEL GORMLEY  
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Less than a week after declaring he would seek a full four-year term, New York Gov. David Paterson abruptly dropped his election bid Friday under pressure from Democrats concerned about his faltering agenda and criticism of his handling of a domestic abuse case involving a trusted aide.

At a news conference, Paterson insisted that he would not resign and said he would serve out his term “fighting for the state of New York.”

And he said he would be vindicated by the criminal investigation he called for into his administration’s handling of the abuse case. Raising his right hand beside his wife, Michelle, he told a crowded press room: “I give you this personal oath. I have never abused my office. Not now, not ever. I believe that when the facts are reviewed, the truth will prevail.”

Paterson became governor in 2008, when former Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned in a prostitution scandal. His decision to abandon the race paved the way for state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to make an unimpeded run for the Democratic nomination.

Paterson had publicly prided himself on beating the odds, including overcoming blindness to rise through treacherous New York politics.

He formally announced his campaign just last weekend, and his decision to leave the race comes just 19 days short of his two-year anniversary as governor.

Paterson has been weighed down by low approval numbers for months. His support within his own party was dwindling, and his campaign bank account paled in size to those of his rivals.

Cuomo, son of former Gov. Mario Cuomo, has already built a campaign fund five times larger than Paterson and consistently outpolls Paterson among New York Democrats, who hold a 2-to-1 edge over Republicans statewide.

Paterson started 2009 by bungling the appointment to fill the Senate seat vacated by Hillary Clinton. Many Democrats, including the Kennedy family, were upset when he passed over Caroline Kennedy. Then one of Paterson’s aides leaked unsubstantiated rumors about her.

Paterson’s problems intensified in recent weeks with a series of critical articles in The New York Times.

The last Times article, published Thursday, raised questions about how Paterson and state police officials responded to a domestic abuse complaint lodged against a trusted aide from Harlem named David Johnson.

Court papers said state police may have pressured the woman not to level criminal

charges against Johnson. The newspaper also said Paterson spoke with the woman personally, although the governor’s office said it was the woman who placed the call.

Paterson suspended Johnson and called for Cuomo’s office to investigate his administration’s handling of the matter.

But renewed calls for Paterson’s exit were made hours after the story was published.

Paterson was the scion of a Harlem political power base that included his father, former state Secretary of State Basil Paterson; the late Percy Sutton, who was Manhattan borough president; Rep. Adam Clayton Powell; former Mayor David Dinkins; and embattled Rep. Charles Rangel.

But Paterson, an affable, slightly built politician, was never really seen as gubernatorial in the eyes of legislators, lobbyists or voters.



New York Governor David Paterson, accompanied by his wife Michelle, raises his hand to swear an oath during a news conference in New York, Friday, Feb. 26, 2010. Paterson abruptly dropped his election bid Friday under pressure from Democrats concerned about his faltering agenda and criticism of his handling of a domestic abuse case involving a trusted aide.

Associated Press

He was Senate minority leader when he was picked by Spitzer to be his running mate. Until he recently insisted on more formality, his staff and even rank-and-file lawmakers referred to him as “David.” After rising to office, he confronted allegations of

sexual affairs and drug use. He held an extraordinary news conference detailing past affairs he and his wife were involved in during an 18-month period when it appeared their marriage would end. He also recounted past drug use from his youth. □

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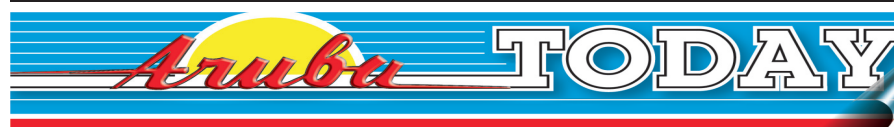
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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Feb. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

JENNIFER LOVEN  
RICARDO ALONSO-  
ZALDIVAR

Associated Press Writers  
WASHINGTON (AP) —  
Democratic leaders from  
Congress to the White House  
vowed Friday to resurrect  
their long-stalled health care

legislation, with or without  
Republican suggestions or  
votes.

It is a gamble for President  
Barack Obama and his party,  
and it is far from certain that  
Democratic congressional  
leaders can rally their  
members to muscle a bill

# House Democrats, White House push on health care

through on their own. At stake are Democrats' political fortunes in the November congressional elections and the fate of Obama's top domestic agenda item pitted against emboldened Republicans.

"We know what happens if we do nothing: more and more people pay more," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. "The president believes we still have to act." Nearly a year after Obama set the overhaul effort in motion, Gibbs said the president would make an announcement, probably on Wednesday, about "where he sees a path moving forward."

Gibbs said the next few days would be a "fairly dynamic process" as the administration and Democratic congressional leaders decide how best to proceed. The White House believes the most likely route to passage by Congress is a controversial one known as "reconciliation," which involves special budget rules allowing majority Democrats to avoid any Republican delaying tactics, said a senior administration official.

But there are other options for a Democratic-only solution, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the political

sensitivity of the issue. Less likely, at this point, is settling for a more modest fallback bill.

One day after an unprecedented health care summit that brought together Obama and lawmakers of both parties, House the Democratic leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, said the nationally televised event showed Republican lawmakers are "accepting of the status quo" in which insurance companies mistreat consumers.

She told reporters at a news conference there are "good prospects for passing" health care legislation along the lines Obama has outlined, even if Republicans refuse their support.

The Senate's second-ranking Democrat, Richard Durbin, seconded the determination to move ahead. "We are not going to wait," he said.

Both Pelosi and Durbin said Democrats would consider Republican suggestions for changes. They are not likely to get much. Spokesmen for the House and Senate Republican leaders said Friday their party does not plan a formal response to Obama, having made clear a belief that Democrats should scrap their bills.

The House and Senate both passed sweeping bills late last year, and had appeared on the cusp of reaching agreement on a final compromise that could remake the U.S. health care system early last month. In general, the bills would have expanded coverage to tens of millions who lack it, while curbing insurance industry abuses such as banning the denial of coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. □

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# Infatuated man kills teacher outside school

GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

TACOMA, Washington (AP)

—A man apparently infatuated with a special education teacher he knew from college shot and killed her as she walked into her elementary school Friday, shortly before students began arriving.

The suspect was killed in a shootout with a deputy a short time later about 10 miles (16 kilometers) away, said sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer.

The man had been released on bail Monday after being arrested a week ago for violating a protective order the teacher, Jennifer Paulson, obtained in September 2008, said Tacoma police spokesman Mark Fulghum.

The victim's father, Ken Paulson, said she was kind and loving, and that's probably why she was a special education teacher. He described the 30-year-old as a devout Christian.

The father said the man who killed his daughter was Jed Waits. The two had apparently known each other since she was in college, when they worked together at a cafeteria at Seattle Pacific University.

In her petition for the anti-harassment order filed in Pierce County District Court, Paulson said she and Waits occasionally socialized with co-workers and friends outside of work as a group but "never had any sort of romantic involvement."

She said she heard from Waits about once a year since she graduated from college in 2003, but on the days she heard from him, he would sometimes call 10 to 15 times in one day.

Then in spring 2008, he showed up at her school, walked into the building and passed the office, where he was stopped by a secretary.

"I never told him where I work and do not know how he found out," Paulson wrote.

He also sent roses and a stuffed bear to her at the school. Paulson's principal called Waits' commander in

the National Guard to inform him of the harassment, she wrote.

The anti-harassment order banned Waits from going within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of Paulson's home or school. But she saw him as she was leaving work Friday, so she called police from her car.

Waits was arrested that night, and after he made bail, Paulson stopped staying at her home, at least temporarily, her father said. The shooting occurred three days after a 32-year-old man with a history of mental illness opened fire in a middle school parking lot in Colorado, wounding two students. □






Ken Paulson is comforted outside Birney Elementary School, where authorities say Paulson's daughter Jennifer was shot and killed Friday, Feb. 26, 2010, in Tacoma, Wash. Authorities say the suspect in the shooting was later killed in a shootout with a Pierce County Sheriff's deputy.

Associated Press

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# Taliban attack in Kabul; insurgents not crippled

AMIR SHAH  
DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press Writers

KABUL (AP) — Insurgents struck Friday at hotels in the heart of Kabul with suicide attackers and a car bomb, killing at least 16 people — half of them foreigners — in an assault that showed the militants remain a potent force despite setbacks on the battlefield and the arrest of more than a dozen key leaders.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks, which President Hamid Karzai said targeted Indians working in Kabul.

At least six of the dead were Indian citizens, including some government officials, Indian authorities said. The Taliban have long opposed India's involvement in Afghanistan and its ties to an Afghan group that helped the U.S. oust the Islamist regime in late 2001.

A French filmmaker and an Italian diplomat also were killed, their governments said. The Kabul police chief said the Italian, Pietro Antonio Colazzo, died a hero, slain by the Taliban when they found he was phoning tips to police from inside his hotel where attackers were holed up.



An Afghan policeman walks towards a hotel used by foreigner after a gun battle between Afghan security forces and the insurgents in Kabul, Afghanistan on Friday, Feb. 26, 2010. Insurgents struck Friday in the heart of Kabul with suicide attackers and a car bomb, targeting hotels used by foreigners and killing at least 17 people, police said.

Associated Press

Italy's news agency ANSA said Colazzo was deputy chief of the Kabul office of the Italian foreign intelligence agency and had been in the country for about two years. Police said three attackers died in addition to the 16 victims.

The attacks follow a string of setbacks suffered by the Taliban, who have all but lost control of a major southern

stronghold of Marjah in a major offensive by thousands of U.S., Afghan and NATO troops. The British government said it lost a soldier Friday in an explosion during a foot patrol — the 14th NATO service member to die in the operation.

Furthermore, more than two dozen senior and midlevel Taliban figures have been detained in Pakistan in recent weeks.

That suggests the attacks in Kabul were a way for the Taliban to show that they remain a threat, capable of striking even in the center of

the Afghan capital.

"Yesterday, the U.S. was showing to the world 'See we are raising the flag in Marjah and isolating the Taliban,'" said Kabul political analyst Wahid Mazhda. "The Taliban once again is showing its power, saying 'We are still active.'"

The four-hour assault began at about 6:30 a.m. when a car bomb devastated a residential hotel used by Indian doctors working at an Indian government-sponsored health center. Soon after, a suicide attacker detonated his explosives outside the

demolished hotel.

As police arrived, two attackers toting a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and rifles ran into the Park Residence, the nearby hotel where the Italian was staying. Police surrounded it, trading gunfire with the insurgents holed up there.

One attacker blew himself up, killing three policemen and wounding six when police stormed the building, officials said. Police shot dead the other attacker.

As the gunbattle unfolded, the scene was chaotic. The body of a man wearing a red shirt was lying near a burned-out vehicle in the rubble of the Arya hotel where the Indians lived. The windows of the nearby luxury Safi Landmark Hotel were blown out by the car bomb, littering the street with glass, masonry and other debris.

"I saw foreigners were crying and shouting," said Najibullah, a 25-year-old Safi hotel worker who ran into the street in his underwear after the first explosion. "It was a very bad situation inside. God helped me, otherwise I would be dead."

Policemen and rescue workers carrying the wounded lumbered down the rain-soaked streets, largely empty because Friday was a holiday marking the birth of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. Police escorted a dazed middle-aged woman dressed in pink pajamas but no shoes — her socks soaked with rainwater. "I haven't seen ... where are my ...," she muttered, speaking only in fragments.

As the fighting raged, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid phoned The Associated Press from an unknown location to claim responsibility, saying five suicide attackers were "targeting two places used by foreigners."

The assault was the deadliest in the capital since Oct. 8, when a suicide car bomber killed 17 people outside the Indian Embassy. A suicide car bomber killed more than 60 people in an attack at the gates of the Indian Embassy in July 2008. □



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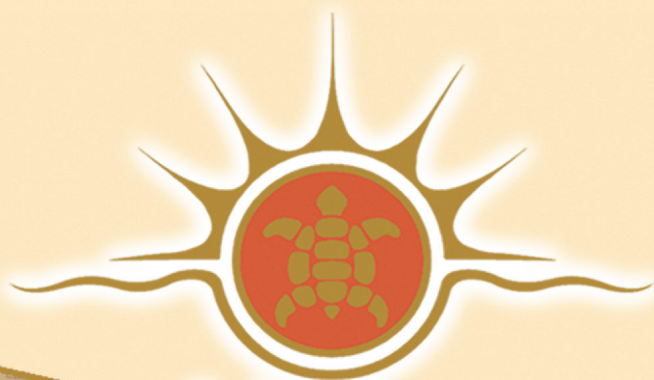
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## Thai court orders assets seized from ex-PM Thaksin

GRANT PECK

Associated Press Writer

BANGKOK (AP) —

Thailand's highest court ruled Friday that ousted leader Thaksin Shinawatra abused his power to enrich himself and his family while in office and ordered that \$1.4 billion of his telecommunications fortune be seized.

The ruling likely disappoints, if not angers, Thaksin's millions of partisans, boding ill for mending the rifts in Thai society after four years of political unrest centered around him.

However, some analysts suggested the court's decision not to seize all 76 billion baht (\$2.3 billion) at stake was a compromise that could foster reconciliation.

Thaksin was deposed by a September 2006 military coup after being accused of corruption and abuse of power. The action was meant to quell tensions sparked by months of anti-Thaksin protests, but instead polarized the country. "The conflict won't go away immediately. This verdict will simply allow the Thai people to cautiously carry on their lives the same way they have for the past two years," said Prinya Thaewanarumitkul, a law professor at Bangkok's Thammasat University. "I

think we need to wait until the next general election to learn if the conflict will end."

The country had increased security leading up to the verdict, but no major violent reaction was immediately reported. Thaksin, speaking by video link from exile, told his supporters to continue to fight for what he terms justice and democracy, but to do so nonviolently.

The passions Thaksin sparked led to the occupation of the seat of government for several months and seizure of the capital's two airports for a week by his opponents in 2008, and rioting and disruption of a conference of Asian heads of government by his supporters last year.

His so-called Red Shirt supporters continue to rally on his behalf, and have promised a "million-man march" for next month. They seek to force the government of current Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, a Thaksin opponent, to call new elections.

Thaksin and his followers insist he was ousted because Thailand's traditional ruling class — the military, the bureaucracy and circles close the royal palace — felt threatened by his political popularity. He and his party won two sweeping election

victories based on populist policies that benefited the country's poor rural majority. Speaking Friday night, Thaksin told his followers that unless they continued to struggle, "the country will remain in the hands of the elite forever." He also insisted, with a vow that he be struck dead if he were lying, that he never committed a corrupt act.

The Supreme Court ruled that in four of five cases presented to it, the 60-year-old billionaire politician had used his authority as the country's leader in 2001-2006 to implement policies that benefited him, sometimes at the expense of the state.

As a small consolation, the court said that only 46 billion baht (\$1.4 billion) of 76 billion baht (\$2.3 billion) of his family's assets that were frozen in Thai accounts after the coup should be seized. With other cases pending against him and his family, it is unclear when the remainder might be released. An unknown amount of Thaksin's fortune is banked overseas.

The Supreme Court said seizing all the assets "would be unfair as some of it was made before Thaksin became prime minister."

The most straightforward case of what is termed "policy



Bangkok police officers in riot gear walk past supporters of ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra near Supreme Court in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Feb. 26, 2010. Thailand's highest court prepared Friday to rule on whether Thaksin should lose part of his fortune for alleged corruption, with a decision either way unlikely to end four years of sometimes-violent political strife.

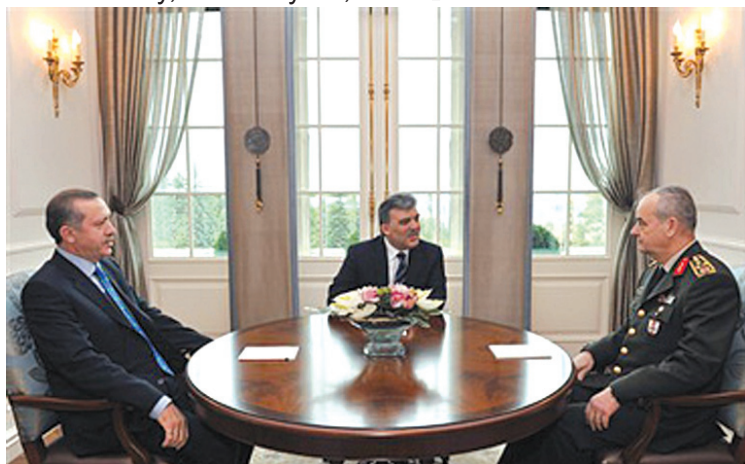
Associated Press

corruption" involved a US\$127 million low-interest government loan to Myanmar in 2004, which the court ruled Thaksin had promoted with the intention of securing its purchase of satellite services from Shin Satellite, then controlled by Thaksin's family. The other rulings charged that telecommunications policies had resulted in benefits for companies he controlled.

"Had they ordered to seize all assets, people would think Thaksin was not being treated fairly," said law professor

Prinya. "Now the friction has decreased, but we still need to watch Thaksin's next move." Audio of the judges reading the 7 1/2 hour verdict was broadcast on several local television stations. Hundreds of people gathered at the headquarters of the opposition Puea Thai party — allied to Thaksin — booed as the final judgments were read. Some women began crying and one man jumped up on a chair and started screaming at a television screen broadcasting the proceedings. □





In this photo released by the Turkish Presidency Press Office, Turkish President Abdullah Gul, center, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, and Chief of Staff Gen. Ilker Basbug are seen during a meeting in Ankara, Turkey, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010.

Associated Press

# Turkish PM: All linked to coup plot will be tried

SELCAN HACAOGU

Associated Press Writer

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's prime minister vowed Friday to put everyone who conspired against the country's democracy on trial, as the number of military officers charged and jailed for allegedly plotting a 2003 coup against his Islamic-based government rose to 33.

The number includes seven admirals and six generals and it represents the largest-ever crackdown on Turkey's military, which has ousted four civilian governments since 1960.

In a new nationwide sweep Friday, police detained 18 more officers, all but one of whom are still on active duty, television stations said.

The officers were detained in 13 different cities and were being transferred to Istanbul, the reports said. It brings the total of officers detained this week to 67.

The military has wielded strong influence on politics for decades, but has seen its powers dramatically curtailed by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, which took steps to put the military under civilian rule.

"An impaired democracy is not the fate of this country," Erdogan told lawmakers at a televised meeting. "No one is above the law, no one is untouchable, no one is privileged."

The probe has fueled tensions between the government and the fiercely secular military and shaken the markets, but Erdogan has dismissed calls by opposition parties for early elections.

"The process under way is painstaking, but it is for the benefit of the people, today's developments are setting free the consciousness of the people," Erdogan said. "Those conspiring behind closed doors to trample on the nation's will from now on will find themselves facing justice."

He added: "They should know that they won't get away with it."

Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Cicek stressed the need to overhaul the Constitution, a legacy of the 1980 military coup, to elevate democratic standards to the level of the European Union in an effort to boost Turkey's membership bid.

Erdogan, President Abdullah Gul and military chief Gen. Ilker Basbug held a rare meeting Thursday, later issuing a joint statement seeking to ease tensions.

"The public must be assured that matters will be handled in line with the law and everyone should act responsibly not to damage institutions," the statement said.

The court late Friday also charged Gen. Cetin Dogan, the former chief of the 1st Army based in Istanbul and Gen. Engin Alan, former head of the Special Forces.

Alan is best known for supervising the transfer of imprisoned Kurdish rebel chief Abdullah Ocalan from Kenya to Turkey after his capture there in 1999. He is a highly respected commander within the military for his role in the fight against Kurdish guerrillas.

Prosecutors late Thursday released the former chiefs of the navy and air force and another top general without immediately charging them, saying they were unlikely to flee.

All suspects have reportedly denied the allegations, which include plotting to blow up mosques and kill some non-Muslim figures to foment chaos and trigger a military takeover.

Wiretap evidence and the discovery of alleged plans for a military coup prompted this week's detentions. The recordings published on leading Web sites were allegedly conversations between ranking commanders at a military unit under Dogan's command in Istanbul.

Opposition leaders claim the coup probe is tinged by politics, a charge the government rejects.

It is widely believed that Gen. Hilmi Ozkok, then head of the military, did not back his subordinates. He has not been implicated in the alleged plot.

President Abdullah Gul, addressing businessmen and industrialists, tried to ease concerns over the government's showdown with the military.

"Have no doubt, Turkey's future is really bright. Do not become fixed in this and become demoralized," Gul said. "All these will pass. These kinds of things happened in many countries. Our laws, rules, everything is working. Our parliament is working." □

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# French air traffic controllers strike for fourth day

PARIS (AP) — A strike by French air traffic controllers disrupted flights for a fourth consecutive day Friday, and it was made worse when some Air France pilots walked off the job to protest the airline's cost-cutting measures.

The pilots' strike was called Friday by several small unions. An airline official said it probably would not cause many disruptions beyond those sparked by the air traffic controllers' strike. Air France, however, decided to cancel 10 percent of its medium-haul flights for Saturday.

France's civil aviation authority says the walkout has forced the cancellation of half the flights at Orly airport south of Paris and 15 percent of the flights at

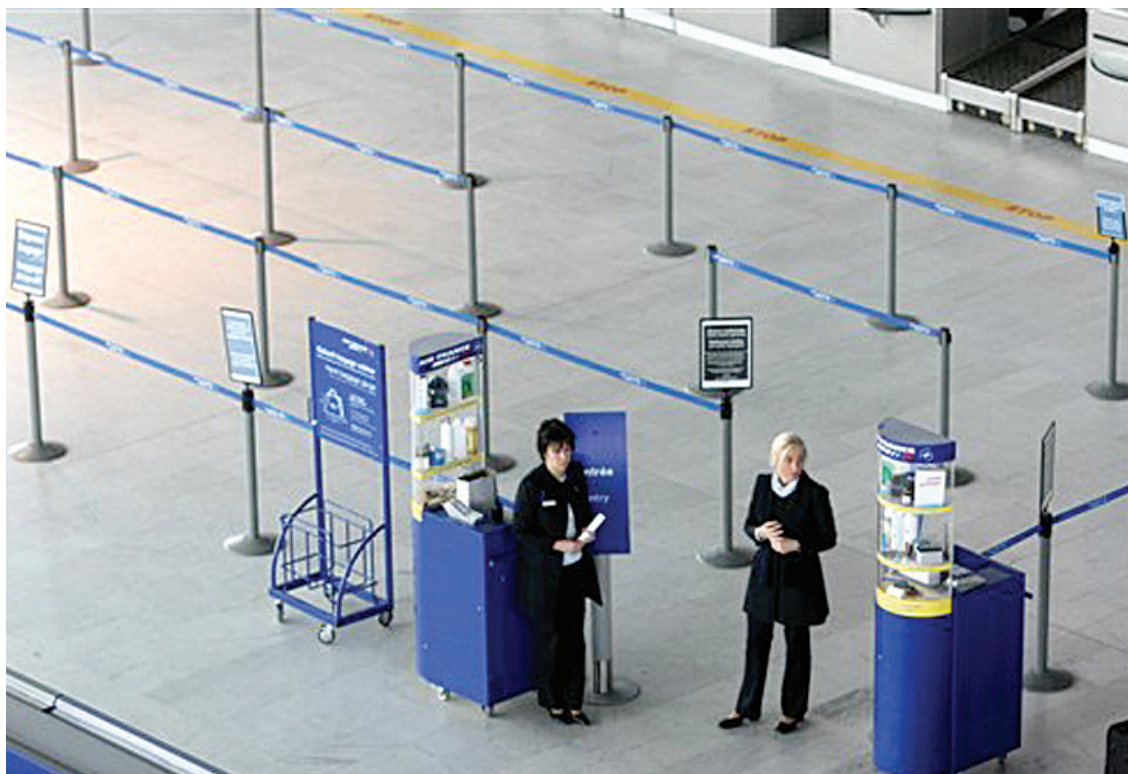
Charles de Gaulle airport north of Paris.

Long-haul flights out of Europe made up most of the canceled flights at Charles de Gaulle, while at Orly the strike mainly affected domestic and European flights, a spokesman for the airports authority said.

The air traffic controllers are upset at a Europe-wide restructuring plan that would jeopardize their status as public servants. Their walkout began Tuesday is to end Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, a strike by dockers on Friday snarled maritime traffic in French ports, including the heavily trafficked ports of Marseille and the English Channel city of Le Havre.

The dock workers were protesting the decision



Ground personnel are seen at the departure desk at the Nice airport, southeastern France, Tuesday Feb. 23, 2010. Disgruntled would-be passengers complained about hundreds of canceled flights and long airport waits as air traffic controllers began a four-day strike across France on Tuesday.

Associated Press

by local authorities in the force striking workers there move a cruise liner out of western city of Nantes to to return to work in order to the city's port. □



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## Harry Potter speaks for gay suicide prevention



**FILE - In this July 10, 2009 file photo, actor Daniel Radcliffe poses for a portrait in New York.**

(AP Photo/Charles Sykes, file)

By **MICHAEL KUCHWARA,**  
AP Drama Writer

**NEW YORK** — Daniel Radcliffe is explaining why he has just filmed a public service announcement for The Trevor Project, the leading organization focusing on suicide prevention efforts among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth.

Because his parents were both actors, “I grew up knowing a lot of gay men and it was never something that I even thought twice about — that some men were gay and some weren’t,” the “Harry Potter” megastar said Friday. “And then I went to school and (for) the first time ... I came across homophobia. ... I had never encountered it before. It shocked me.

“I have always hated anybody who is not tolerant of gay men

or lesbians or bisexuals,” he added. “Now I am in the very fortunate position where I can actually help or do something about it.”

The result is a PSA that was filmed Friday at the organization’s Wall Street offices. The announcement is scheduled to air sometime this spring.

Radcliffe first became aware of The Trevor Project, founded in 1998 by three filmmakers, while he was appearing on Broadway in the 2008 revival of “Equus.” Their movie, “Trevor,” which won an Academy Award for best short film, concerned a gay teen who attempts suicide. The Trevor Project allows young people to call in for counseling or just to talk.

“I have described myself as being ‘gently eccentric’ and slightly different as a person just because I’ve had a very different set of influences growing up than anybody else in my peer group did,” the 20-year-old Radcliffe said. “I’ve always felt very lucky to have the life that I’ve had. I never had to cope with anything serious about my religion or sexual orientation or anything like that. “I think it’s important for somebody from a big, commercial movie series like ‘Harry Potter’ and particularly because I am not gay or bisexual or transgendered. ... The fact that I am straight makes not a difference, but it shows that straight people are incredibly interested and care a lot about this as well.” □

## Singer Prince settles lawsuit over axed Dublin gig

By **SHAWN POGATCHNIK,**  
Associated Press Writer

**DUBLIN** — Lawyers for U.S. pop singer Prince agreed Friday to pay substantial damages for his unexplained cancellation of a 2008 concert in Ireland’s largest stadium. Prince, 51, did not appear during the four-day hearing in Dublin High Court.

But evidence presented by Dublin concert promoters MCD Productions Ltd. — which sued Prince for (EURO)1.7 million (\$2.3 million) alleging breach of



**FILE - In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, actor Gary Coleman appears on the the NBC ‘Today’ program in New York.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

### Gary Coleman suffers seizure on ‘The Insider’ set

**LOS ANGELES** — Gary Coleman suffered a seizure on the set of “The Insider” and received immediate treatment from Dr. Drew Pinsky, who happened to be on set as well. “The Insider” says on its Web site that Coleman was transported to a local hospital in stable condition.

A publicist for “The Insider” declined to say what the former child television star was doing on the entertainment program and referred inquiries to the show’s Web site.

Coleman is best known for his stint on “Diff’rent Strokes.” The television show aired from 1978-86. □

contract — demonstrated he had committed to perform in the 82,300-seat Croke Park in June 2008, only to withdraw without explanation 10 days beforehand after 55,000 tickets were sold.

Lawyers for both sides announced an out-of-court settlement Friday. Neither side disclosed the figures involved.

But MCD owner Denis Desmond suggested outside the courthouse that the settlement easily topped (EURO)1 million (\$1.35 million) because his company would not be “out of pocket” once Prince paid up.

MCD, Ireland’s biggest concert organizers, paid (EURO)700,000 to book Croke Park for the night, advertised the concert aggressively and refunded all 55,000 tickets.

Desmond also poked fun at Prince’s reported quote, relayed Thursday by his former William Morris agent Marc Geiger, that he expected Desmond to take the concert’s collapse in stride.

“Tell the cat to chill. We will

work something out,” Geiger quoted Prince as saying during a rare face-to-face meeting on June 3, 2008.

“This cat’s very chilled,” Desmond said Friday with a broad smile.

Geiger had testified that Prince was “one of the least clear” clients he had ever experienced during a 20-year agent’s career, particularly because he shunned direct communication, instead conveying messages through an assistant if at all.

He said Prince was offered \$22 million to perform in Dublin and at six other unspecified European venues.

Dublin High Court Justice Peter Kelly suggested that, just as in 2008, Prince might be giving others the impression that he had confirmed out-of-court settlement terms but would renege later on the deal.

Kelly asked if “the word ‘confirmed’ in Prince-speak means the same as it means in English?”

Prince’s lawyer, Paul Sreenan, said it did. □

## French filmmaker Severin Blanchet killed in Kabul

**PARIS** — Severin Blanchet, a French documentary filmmaker who was training young Afghans, died Friday during an attack by insurgents in a hotel for foreigners in Kabul where he was staying. He was 66.

The French Foreign Ministry and the Ateliers Varan, a French film school with which Blanchet was affiliated, both offered condolences.

Blanchet had been in Afghanistan since 2006 organizing classes in documentary film-making for young, aspiring Afghan filmmakers.

“I salute the memory of our compatriot Severin Blanchet,” French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said in a statement Friday.

“He was a privileged partner in French cultural action in Afghanistan. We will pursue with determination the work that he had started with such generosity and solidarity,” Kouchner said.

Blanchet had made about a dozen of his own documentary films and created film-making courses in many countries. He had a special interest for Papua New Guinea, the Ateliers Varan said in a statement posted on its Web site.

He also appeared in films on occasion and had a role in the 2006 movie “Gardens in Autumn” by the well-known Georgian director Otar Iosselani, who lives in France.

Funeral plans were not known, and there was no immediate information available about survivors. □

## Shakira adds voice to Spanish “We Are the World”

**MIAMI** — Shakira and Ricky Martin are among the artists adding their voices to a Spanish-language adaptation of “We Are the World” to raise money for Haiti earthquake relief.

The song will first air Monday on Univision’s “The Cristina Show.” It was produced by Emilio Estefan, Quincy Jones and Univision, under the auspices of the We Are The World Foundation.

The foundation said all proceeds will be used to help Haiti recover from a devastating Jan. 12 quake.

Gloria Estefan penned the adaptation. Other participants include Carlos Santana, Chayanne, David Archuleta, Juan Luis Guerra and Juanes.

The original “We Are the World” in 1985 raised more than \$30 million for African hunger relief. Some 80 artists recently recorded a 25th anniversary version benefiting Haiti. □



## BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

## Stocks edge higher after mixed economic news



People walk past the New York Stock Exchange after heavy snowfall during a winter storm in New York February 26, 2010. A strong winter storm slammed New York City and much of the Northeast, forcing businesses, schools and transportation systems to shut down.

REUTERS/Chip East

By TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market managed modest gains Friday as investors took the latest round of downbeat economic news in stride.

The bad news came from several corners including the financial industry. Insurer American International Group Inc. reported a larger than expected fourth-quarter loss. The company said its primary insurance business was hurt in part by the economy.

The National Association of Realtors said sales of previously occupied homes fell 7.2 percent in January. It marks the second straight month of a big drop. Analysts had predicted a gain. The Realtors' report comes two days after the Commerce Department said that new home sales fell last month.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department reported that the nation's economy grew at a faster pace than initially estimated for the end of 2009. The stronger growth from

the third quarter to the fourth quarter was welcome news but analysts say much of the gain is tied to businesses rebuilding inventories. Gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 5.9 percent, above the 5.7 percent previous estimate. Growth is expected to slow in the coming quarters.

The mixed reports added to investors' confusion about the economy. Analysts are divided over whether a recovery is on track. That has led to swings in the stock market after nearly a year of strong gains. Major stock indexes have been strong this month but are little-changed for the year over all. This week stocks have fallen, jumped and slid again as worries about the economy intensified and eased.

"We're in a time period where the range of potential outcomes is probably wider than it's been for some time," said Colleen Supran, a portfolio manager at Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough in San Francisco. She pointed to concerns about everything from unemployment and housing to heavy debt loads in Greece and other parts of Europe.

"Are we going to have a double dip? Are corporations going to be able to grow earnings? That's sort of the bottom line for stock prices in the long run."

In late afternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 13.68, or 0.1 percent, to 10,334.71.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.64, or 0.2 percent, to 1,105.57. It is down for the week but up about 3 percent for month. That's the best performance since the index, which is the basis for many mutual funds, jumped 5.7 percent in November. □

## Lawmaker: Toyota withheld crash lawsuit evidence

By STEPHEN MANNING  
and TOM KRISHER,

AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — A House lawmaker said Friday that internal Toyota documents show the automaker deliberately withheld key vehicle design and testing evidence in lawsuits filed by Toyota drivers injured in crashes.

In a letter to Toyota's top North American executive, House oversight committee chairman Edolphus Towns accused Toyota of shielding its testing data on potential problems with Toyota vehicles. Towns wrote that Toyota chose to enter hefty settlements with plaintiffs to avoid disclosing the database, which the lawmaker said was referred to as the "Books of Knowledge."

The Toyota documents "show a systematic disregard for the law and routine violation of court discovery orders in litigation," Towns wrote in the letter to Yoshimi Inaba.

Toyota said in a statement that it is confident it acted appropriately in product liability lawsuits and it looks forward to addressing Towns' concerns. The automaker said it is not uncommon for companies to object to demands for documents made in lawsuits.

"Consistent with that philosophy, we take appropriate steps to maintain the confidentiality of competitive business information and trade secrets," the statement said.

Inaba and Toyota president Akio Toyoda appeared before the committee on



In this picture, taken on February 8, a car (bottom C) drives past the Toyota Motor Corp. headquarters in Toyota City in Japan. A top US lawmaker blasted Toyota Friday for allegedly withholding documents it was legally required to hand over in lawsuits by people injured in accidents in the Japanese auto giant's vehicles.

(AFP/File/Kazuhiro Nogi)

Wednesday, the second of two House hearings this week on Toyota's recall of 8.5 million vehicles over safety concerns. Toyota turned over thousands of internal documents before the hearings. A third Toyota hearing is scheduled for next week in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Lawmakers and federal safety regulators have accused Toyota of concealing safety problems over cases of sudden unintended acceleration due to gas pedal problems. The company has pledged to be more responsive to customer complaints and safety warnings.

The oversight committee also subpoenaed records from Dimitrios Biller, the former managing counsel of Toyota's U.S.-based product liability group. Biller, who worked at Toyota from 2003 to 2007,

dealt with lawsuits against Toyota for vehicle roll-over crashes. He has since filed a lawsuit against the company. According to memos Biller provided, the database covers design problems and "countermeasures" that Toyota developed to resolve the problems. It could be searched by vehicles or component part, and was kept by Toyota's technical center. Biller said he discovered the database while working on a case, and warned that it should be released during litigation. Biller wrote in an e-mail that he agreed to a \$1.5 million settlement in 2006 to avoid disclosure in a roll-over case. He also warned that the company needed to keep better track of cases of unintended acceleration.

Biller and his attorney did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

# Riesch wins slalom; U.S. men's hockey win

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — German skier Maria Riesch earned her second Olympic gold medal of the Vancouver Games on Friday, and the United States played its part in setting up an all-North American final in men's ice hockey.

Riesch, who also won gold in the super-combined, led the first run of the final race on the women's Alpine schedule and skied through driving snow in the second to win in a combined time of 1 minute, 42.89 seconds.

Lindsey Vonn of the United States, who won medals



Salt Lake City. He has 11 medals overall, including one gold from the 1998 Nagano Games.

Despite winning his sixth gold medal, Bjoerndalen still trails Norwegian cross-country skier Bjoern Daehlie's eight.

In women's parallel giant slalom, Nicolien Sauerbreij of the Netherlands won gold, defeating Ekaterina Ilyukhina of Russia in the final.

Gold medals will also be won in women's curling and in three short track speedskating races: the men's 500-meter and 5,000 relay, and the women's 1,000.



ABOVE: Germany's Maria Riesch, the gold medalist, celebrates during the flower ceremony for the Women's slalom at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Friday, Feb. 26, 2010. LEFT: USA players celebrate after beating Finland 6-1 in a men's semifinal round ice hockey game at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Friday, Feb. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

biathlon relay, winning with teammates Halvard Hanevold, Tarjei Boe and Emil Hegle Svendsen in 1:21:38.1 through steady snowfall.

"My shooting was fantastic," Bjoerndalen said. "I went fast and skied great. I'm really satisfied with my race. It was perfect."

Austria earned the silver medal and Russia took bronze.

Bjoerndalen won two silvers and a bronze at the 2006 Turin Games after sweeping all four races in

Also, the men's four-man bobsled competition starts at the Whistler Sliding Center and the men's and women's speedskating team pursuit begins at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Through heavy snow on Whistler mountain, Riesch was fastest down the slalom course in one of her best events. Marlies Schild of Austria took silver and Sarka Zahrobska earned bronze.

Germany has now won three of the five women's Alpine races. Besides Riesch's two, Viktoria Rebensburg earned gold in the giant slalom.

Vonn, who is better at the speed events, straddled a gate and skied out of her third straight event at the Vancouver Games after winning gold in the downhill and bronze in the super-G.

"I don't know what's going on," Vonn said. □

in the opening two events, missed a gate in the first run — the third straight race in which she has failed to finish.

The United States, which

beat Canada 5-3 in the preliminary round, advanced to the gold medal game with an easy 6-1 victory over Finland. Canada will play Slovakia later Friday for the second spot in the final.

Also Friday, the most decorated biathlete in history added a sixth gold medal to his career haul. Ole Einar Bjoerndalen anchored Norway to a comfortable victory in the men's



# MLS players not striking yet as deal expires

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Soccer players say they won't go on strike just yet, despite the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

The deal between the league and the players' union was set to expire Thursday night after players balked at a third short-term extension.

The sides, whose five-year contract initially was due to expire Jan. 31, have not met since Monday's session in Washington, D.C.

"We have advised our players to keep working for the time being, but as of Friday they will be doing so without a CBA," Major League Soccer Players Union executive director Bob Foose said in a statement. "In the meantime, all options are being considered as the process continues."

MLS president Mark Abbott said last weekend that the league didn't plan to lock out players and was prepared to start the season under the terms and conditions of the old contract.

Players have sought free agent rights and more guaranteed contracts from the league, which launched in 1996 and negotiates all player contracts on behalf of its teams.

"We have listened to the issues raised by the MLS Players Union and the league has made detailed proposals that have addressed these issues, including in the areas of economics, guaranteed contracts, options and the ability of a player to move to another MLS club if he is released by his current club," MLS said in a statement. "These proposals, which represent substantial changes from the current CBA, will significantly increase our spending and provide substantially more rights to the players."

Income for players averaged \$147,945 at the start of last season, according to the union. But the median — the point at which an equal number of players make above and below — was \$88,000. "While we expect that negotiations with MLS will resume at some point, there simply hasn't been enough progress made in the negotiations to date to warrant an extension of the old agreement," Foose said. "We are completely committed to forging real changes to the way MLS players are treated."

The MLS schedule begins March 25, when the new Philadelphia Union team is away at Seattle, but there are some matches before then. Columbus hosts Toluca on March 9 in the



quarterfinals of the CONCACAF Champions League on March 9, then plays the second leg at the Mexican club eight days later.

Red Bull Arena, a \$200 million, 25,000-seat stadium in Harrison, New Jersey, formally opens with an exhibition game between the Red Bulls and Brazil's Santos on March 20. The Red Bulls said Thursday that Robinho, on loan to Santos from Manchester City, will be part of the travel roster along with Neymar, Giovani and Fabio Costa. □

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## NBA Roundup

# Cavaliers blow past stagnant Celtics, 108-88



Cleveland Cavaliers players, from left, Antawn Jamison, Anderson Varejao, of Brazil, and LeBron Jamesin watch from the bench late in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, in Boston. The Cavaliers won 108-88.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — LeBron James had 36 points, nine assists and seven rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers surged past the Boston Celtics 108-88 in a possible preview of the NBA Eastern Conference finals.

James kept the Cavaliers in it for three quarters on a night they lost Shaquille O'Neal to a first-half thumb injury, then Mo Williams made four 3-pointers when Cleveland blew by the Celtics in the fourth, outscoring them 35-14.

Unable to stop Rajon Rondo or the Celtics in the first quarter, the Cavaliers turned up the defense in the fourth, limiting the Celtics to three baskets.

Ray Allen scored 21 points for

the Celtics, who badly missed injured

All-Star Paul Pierce (right thumb) when their offense went stagnant in the final 1½ quarters.

Cleveland improved to 20-10 on the road, tying Boston for the best in the NBA, and avenged a home loss on opening night.

The Cavaliers opened a 5½-game lead over Orlando in the East while dropping Boston 7½ games back in a tie for third with Atlanta.

## Nuggets 127, Warriors 112

In Oakland, California, Denver overcame Golden State in the Nuggets first game without coach George Karl since he revealed he has throat cancer. Chauncey Billups had 37 points and nine rebounds and Carmelo Anthony added 27 points for Denver, which moved clear top of the Northwest Division, breaking a tie with Utah.

Karl stayed in Denver to receive treatment but is expected back Friday night at home against Detroit. Assistant Adrian Dantley directed the team against the Warriors.

The Nuggets set a season high

with 16 3-pointers.

Stephen Curry had 30 points and 13 assists for Golden State, which twice whittled big deficits down to single digits, only for Denver to reply each time.

## Bucks 112, Pacers 110

In Indianapolis, Milwaukee extended its winning streak to five games, edging Indiana.

John Salmons scored 20 points, and Brandon Jennings had 18 points and seven assists for the Bucks, who are 3-0 against the Pacers this season and now only one game off second place in the Central Division.

Danny Granger had 21 points for Indiana, which has dropped seven of eight.

Milwaukee had a 16-point lead in the third quarter, but that was cut to six with 4 minutes left in the game and then to just two with 31 seconds on the clock.

Granger converted two free throws with 10 seconds left, and Milwaukee hung on.

**In other NBA games it was, Milwaukee 112, Indiana 110; Cleveland 108, Boston 88; and Denver 127, Golden State 112.** □



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# Pacquiao in final preparations for Cowboys Stadium

DAVE SKRETTA  
AP Sports Writer

Manny Pacquiao ran roughshod through four different sparring partners this week, and boxing's pound-for-pound king plans to churn through just as many on Saturday.

He's been peppering the speed bag, pounding the heavy bag and doing enough running to make Usain Bolt fall over in a heap. Under the watchful eye of trainer Freddie Roach, Pacquiao is putting himself in position to knock out Joshua Clottey when they fight on March 13 in Dallas.

"Manny is getting better all the time," Roach marveled after a training session on Friday at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles. "I know Clottey is a big, strong guy. I respect him, he's a great fighter. But Manny I feel is going to overwhelm him with his speed and combinations, and I do believe we will be the first one to stop him in 12 rounds."

If it sounds simple, that's because Pacquiao has little trouble when fights are decided in the ring. Things aren't so easy when the fight is contested with words.

That continues to be the case with Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr., after their proposed blockbuster fell through because of drug testing protocol. Mayweather and his relatives have accused Pacquiao of using performance-enhancing drugs, either directly or by innuendo, while the Filipino champion has balked at taking a blood test within 14 days of a fight.

Pacquiao will instead fight Clottey at Cowboys Stadium, while Mayweather is headed for a showdown on May 1 against welterweight champion Shane Mosley. Along with the verbal jabs,

Pacquiao and Mayweather can also fight over who generates bigger pay-per-view numbers.

"We're not happy with his remarks and Manny really wants to fight him in the future because of the remarks he made," Roach said. "Manny, sometimes when he's shadowboxing, he shows me how Mayweather fights and how he'll take care of the problem, and I've never seen that before. 'He's trying to ruin our reputations and so forth,'" Roach added, "but we want to fight him and we'll knock him out."

Promoter Bob Arum still believes that Mayweather never wanted to fight Pacquiao, and his strict adherence to blood testing—which is far more extensive than urine analysis required by the Nevada Athletic Commission — was his way of getting out of it.

"We don't have to be geniuses to know what they were trying to do. They were trying to get into Manny's head so he'd be discombobulated," Arum said. "Mayweather against Manny is a no-contest, no contest. Manny would wipe the ring with Floyd Mayweather."

If that's ever to happen, he'll first have to wipe the ring with Clottey.

The fight appears to be a mismatch on paper, especially considering the rugged fighter from Ghana lost to Miguel Cotto — the same guy Pacquiao dominated last autumn. But just like fights aren't decided with words, they aren't decided on paper, either.

"Joshua Clottey I know is taller and bigger than me, and you cannot underestimate him," Pacquiao said, "because he's a former world champion also." Clottey has been training in



In this Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, Joshua Clottey, of Ghana, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, attend a news conference in New York to promote their upcoming fight. Pacquiao went 11 rounds with four different sparring partners this week, and plans to do even more Saturday. His training at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles is coming along nicely for his fight March 13 against Joshua Clottey. Now, if he could only make the public forget about that guy named Mayweather.

Associated Press

Fort Lauderdale, Florida for the first seven-figure payday of his career. It would go a long way toward helping his family back home in the dusty city of Accra, where Clottey acknowledges that poverty is a way of life.

"I'm coming to do my best," he said by phone this week. "He is a good fighter. He is the best now. This is the test and I am going for the WBO title. I'm going all out. I have my game

plan and I always come to fight."

More than 30,000 tickets have already been sold for the fight, and Arum expects the \$1.2 billion NFL stadium just outside Dallas to be filled with about 45,000 fans on March 13.

It may not be Mayweather, but it's something to tide fans over.

"People were looking forward to a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight, that's

clear. But Manny has a huge, huge fan base," Arum said. "Every sports fan knows Manny Pacquiao. Our job is to present Joshua Clottey as he is, a bigger guy, a stronger guy probably, a guy who has never been off his feet — a real test for Manny Pacquiao. That's what will sell this fight."

"I think the public gets it, and I think the pay-per-view is going to do extremely well." □



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



# Head injuries highlight at second Safety Summit

By ANDREW SELIGMAN

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS

Information came at the players like an all-out blitz as manufacturers explained why their product was the best and safest.

Though the topics were wide ranging, preventing head injuries topped the list Friday at the NFL Players Association's second Player Safety and Welfare Summit.

Some 25 players heard presentations from helmet manufacturers and medical personnel that included plenty of charts and videos showing helmets getting blasted like crash test dummies. Sneaker companies, turf producers and nutrition experts were there, too, but protecting the head took center stage. Carolina Panthers receiver Muhsin Muhammad said most players "have a brief overview" of concussions and their long-term effects, but they're getting a more in-depth lesson from the league and union in the wake of a high-profile study at the University of Michigan that found retired players had a higher-than-normal rate of Alzheimer's disease and memory problems.

"The NFL is taking it



Robert Erb, the chief executive of Schutt Sports, poses with some of the companies football equipment outside the NFL Players Association's Player Safety & Welfare Summit in Indianapolis, Friday, Feb. 26, 2010. The event part of an effort increasing the overall health and safety of NFL players.

Associated Press

seriously and players' safety is an issue that's nonnegotiable," said St. Louis Rams receiver Sean Morey, who has studied the issue and agreed to donate his brain to research after his death. "It's not an issue that we need to debate. It's an issue that we're going to come together collaboratively ... to get the answers right, to understand the long-term cumulative effects and help protect the players."

The NFL last season adopted stricter standards for determining when players can return to games after big collisions. At the combine this week, the league for the first time is giving players tests to establish baseline brain activity and is focusing more on their concussion histories.

Rules changes to limit

injuries are under discussion.

The helmet is under the microscope, too.

The league has conducted tests, and this week the manufacturers gave presentations to the league's competition committee about designs that could cut down on the number of head injuries. On Friday, they had an audience with the players.

"Nobody can guarantee that you're not going to get a concussive episode," said Vincent Ferrara, president of helmet manufacturer Xenith.

The technology can improve, however. Players can also make more educated decisions.

The fact that they can even choose their helmet caught some by surprise.

"That's information new

to me," said Indianapolis linebacker Freddy Keiaho, who missed a month during his second year because of concussions. "I think that's more information that we as NFLPA need to inform our players. ... To come away with that information made today really worth it."

Many players simply go with the Riddell equipment that teams distribute, unaware they can wear any helmet approved by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment. Muhammad knew there were choices, but wasn't sure of the extent.

"Typically, you're given A-B-C type of selections," he said. "I wasn't aware of the variety of the selections that were out there."

At the summit, players heard from representatives from Adams USA and

Schutt Sports, as well as Riddell and Xenith. Each promoted its cushioning system, some of which contain sensors that make the padding expand like air bags in a car.

They backed up their arguments with studies measuring the force of impact, the number of blows to the head in practices and games. Riddell even tracked where in the head players were most likely to get hit, indicating the company might develop position-specific helmets.

"That could very well happen," vice president Thad Ide said.

The studies mostly centered on college players, which was a sore spot for some in the room. They wondered why the NFL didn't lead the charge.

Union medical adviser Dr. Thom Mayer cited "inertia" by the league, but also praised the NFL for now taking a closer look at the issue.

Mayer, who also serves on the NFL's various health and safety committees, sees a day when helmets will have microsensors that can "fire air bags" in response to the forces involved.

"If the Marine Corps can make a helmet that can stop an AK-47 round and the Marine ends up with a concussion and not a penetrating head injury, then we can come up with a helmet over time that — I don't think will ever be concussion-proof but — will be more protective of the player than it currently is," he said. □





## Response from the Dutch Ambassador to the U.S.



Aruba is part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands. The Netherlands and the US share 400 years of history, values, and a strong economic relationship. The Netherlands is the third largest investor in the US. Your recent article "A Caribbean Tax Holiday for U.S. Businesses" mentions Aruba twice, as one of a number of Caribbean countries that was used to evade US-taxes through the use of credit card payments. But nowhere in your article do you substantiate that this is the case for Aruba. The Aruban authorities have investigated this claim, and have not found any evidence to support it. Aruba was one of the first countries, back in 2003, to conclude a Tax Information Exchange Agreement with the United States and has since then exchanged information on request several times. Its tax system is fully transparent, in accordance with OECD standards. Aruba has a corporate income tax rate of 28%; less than 1% of its economic activities come from offshore business. Aruba is a committed member country of the Financial Action Task Force in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Yours Sincerely,  
**Renée Jones-Bos**  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Washington DC

## Post Aruba NV Opens a Branch at Palm Beach Plaza

PALM BEACH – Kees van Nederkassel, Director Post Aruba N.V. hosted a grand opening party of the new Post Office branch at Palm Beach Plaza.

The party was organized with the help of Jennifer Kock, Head Marketing & Philately in conjunction with Indra Stamper Tenant Relations Manager.

Van Nederkassel shared in his opening address the willingness of his organization to serve the tourist and the local market via new services and a fresh approach, revolutionizing Post Aruba NV, and making it contemporary and very user friendly.

*Continued on Page B8*



*For Marriott Properties In India, Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan*

## John P. Woolley Promoted Area Director Of Sales & Marketing



PALM BEACH – On Thursday February 25th ArubaMarriott's management team and associates said their goodbyes to John Woolley at his favorite hang-out on the island, Café 080 in Noord. Earlier in the day the Sales, Marketing & Reservations team that reported to Woolley, surprised him during a Sales meeting with an unexpected visit of the Skydive Aruba team who took John for a skydive as a last farewell to his beloved island.

Woolley served at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino as Director of Sales & Marketing for nearly 2,5 years.

*Continued on Page 5*

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# Shivas Gold & Gems now open at the Palm beach Plaza



Palm Beach Plaza -- Shivas Gold & Gems at the new Palm Beach Plaza occupies a large portion of the mall's right wing and serves as anchor tenant and main attraction. The store requires no introduction as it is related to the large Shivas Gold & Gems at Royal Plaza, owned by the Alwani family. Many island visitors and locals consider Kelly Alwani their personal jeweler and gem expert. Not one to rest on his laurels, Kelly embraced the challenge of creating a new location at

the Palm Beach Plaza, a store made up of many mini stores, as the layout suggests a great variety and an exceptional well-rounded shopping experience. Shivas Gold & Gems, Kelly reports, first opened in Aruba in 1993. The store prides itself on being the only Jewelry store here specializing in both fine jewels and the most sought-after time pieces in the world. From diamond engagement rings to famous Swiss time pieces, Kelly and his friendly staff easily tailor

every purchase to the client's individual taste and need.

In his quest for excellence Kelly secured representation to the world's best known watch brands such as Audemars Piguet, IWC, Hublot, Piaget, Jager Le Coultre, Girard Perregaux, Ebel, Longines, Franck Muller, Michelle, Tissot, Carl F. Bucherer, Panerai and Blancpain. The collection is indeed extensive and offers something to everyone, from modest first watches to hard-to-get limited edition collector items.

In 2001, in appreciation of great customer service, knowledge and integrity Shivas Gold & Gems was honored, and still maintains the prestigious title of "Leading Jeweler of the World." The honor is bestowed on the finest in the business, independent retail jewelers who can guarantee a large inventory, caring customer service, and in general practice the highest business standards inspiring customer trust. As "Leading Jeweler of the World," Shivas Gold & Gems carries an extensive collection of world renowned brands such as La Nouvelle Bauge, Sauro and Baraka. In addition to that Kelly's impeccable taste is reflected in the variety of original designs, offered exclusively. Yet, at the new Palm Beach location, there is more to Shivas Gold & Gems, than jewels and watches. Clients



are invited to also explore the fabulous Swarovski Crystal collection from Austria, and the MontBlanc writing instruments and leather goods display, delivering many exquisite shoppotunities. "We consider our clients our family members," says Reyana, Kelly's beautiful wife, "and their shopping experience with us is guaranteed to become a highlight of their vacation." As all of the clients attest, the Alwanis believe in long term relationships and enjoy a wide network of international friends who visit their store every year, updating and upgrading their jewelry collection with the personal guidance of their

private jewelers. The new Palm Beach Plaza Mall where the store is situated is a warm and sophisticated environment and Shivas Gold & Gems is a true work of architectural wonder. Each global brand enjoys an individual and specialized display and the store boasts a full living room designed to provide rest and relaxation, a welcome respite from window browsing over a drink or a piece of chocolate. Nautical wood, crystal, bamboo, a waterfall, indirect lighting and gleaming showcases all create a rich and enticing world of luxury at Shivas Gold & Gems, at the Palm Beach Plaza, open nightly until 10 p.m. □





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## Marriott Surf Club Guests enjoy snorkeling



PALM BEACH - Mike Wenzel and his family are here on Aruba for the second time. They brought their 2 boys and the grandparents. They are staying at the Marriott Surf Club and they did some snorkeling with Kent Gerber. They are really having a great time in Aruba and they hope to keep coming back to this one happy island!!!



*Dinner with a Dance @ Arawak Garden*

## Abstract Dawn in concert tonight in Palm Beach



PALM BEACH - Enjoy a lovely dinner at one of Arawaks Garden restaurants with the entertainment of Abstract Dawn starting at 6:30 this evening.

This Aruba Cover Band can play whatever you would like to hear... Latin, Pop, Lounge.

Sing-a-long or have a dance while waiting for your meal to come. Arawak Garden offers international, argentine, fish and

Italian restaurants a Piano Bar and Burger King. It's a cozy square with most outside seating where you can enjoy the music and the band.

Arawak Garden is located in the High Rise Area in front of Occidental & Radisson Hotel, walking distance from almost every hotel.

Reservations & walk-ins welcome.



Letter to the Editor:

# The most beautiful ugly place I have ever seen

Our adventure to Haiti to help the earthquake survivors started with Pastor Mike Pellitier who had a vision to help ease the suffering of the refugees. We did not go with any organization, we were just five men with a single desire to help. We (Pastor Mike, Pastor Joe Roof, Youth Pastor Joel Milligan, 19 year old Jack Guziewicz and Myself) flew into Cap Haitian, which is in the northern part of Haiti. Pastor Mike had received donations from many churches in the United States, and he used the money to purchase and gather tents, sleeping bags, shoes, and clothing. While in the US, Pastor Mike arranged for the airlifting and shipping of the donated items to help with the urgent needs of those affected by the earthquake. The timing of the flights, shipping and travelling into and through Haiti was miraculous as everything worked out on schedule. We were met in Cap Haitian by a true inspiration, Missionary Tim Bower. He picked us up in his bright blue school bus, and so started a

road trip that led us from one side of the island to the other. We got to see Cap Haitian, St. Raphael, Gonaives, St. Marc, Port Au Prince, Leogane and Jacmel. We were joined in this road trip by Pastor Harry Peart and Dr. Jerry Pennington and a group of 7 Haitian pastors from the central plateau. We drove 9 hours to a refugee camp in Fauche, which is ten miles from the epicenter of the earthquake, just south west of Port Au Prince. At the refugee camp, I met 150 beautiful people who were seeking shelter and food at a church and school founded by Pastor Marc Chery and pastored by Roland Paul.

We stayed at the refugee camp; some of us sleeping in tents, some under the bus, while others slept under the stars. The pastors held several services, with hours of singing and preaching. Many people gave their lives to Christ and many more were comforted, after hearing from God's Word. We played with the children, and Pastor Joel held special services for them. Jack helped

with the children's activities, playing games and making balloon animals, giving them a little joy and a smile. We were able to give out the tents we had shipped in, as well as some funds needed to help with the purchase of food for the refugees. We made plans for the distribution of the clothing, sleeping bags, shoes, and the remainder of the tents as soon as the container passes through customs.

The poverty is indescribable, the children have nothing. They play football (soccer) with a water bottle filled with rocks, and even after the balloon animals popped the children played with the broken balloons for days. During one of the night services I was taking some video, and as I looked down at my feet I saw a baby no more than 2 years old sleeping in the dirt. We weren't able to bring in enough tents for everyone but it is comforting to know that tonight there is at least one less baby sleeping in the dirt. It breaks my heart to think of the thousands we were not able to help, the thousands that are left homeless without even a tent.

We were taken care of by the cook Madame Edner Louis, a wonderful woman who mothered us while we were there. As many of the Haitians, her life is filled with

difficulties. She struggles to provide for her family of four, and to put her son through university. She sells hand made bookmarks to try and raise some money. Her part of the road trip was to make sure we had clean food and to keep us safe from many of the food born diseases that ravage the country of Haiti.

All in all we had an interesting trip and saw most of the country. But the devastation we saw in Port au Prince, Jacmel, and especially Leogane was indescribable. Thousands of houses were destroyed completely. The shocking reality of seeing a five story university crushed flat and knowing it's now the tomb for hundreds of students and then seeing the huge presidential palace completely destroyed has left us speechless. Pray for Haiti as they struggle to survive. I did not know so much beauty could be in a place so ugly (ugly in poverty and suffering). It left me empty, like I did not do enough.

Now every time I look at the stars, I think of the children knowing that some of them are sleeping under the same stars, with no parents, hungry, sick and hurting.

They say a picture can say a thousand words, but they are wrong. You need to hug one of these kids and your life will change forever, this is real, not

a photograph or a movie.

An old Haitian proverb says: "Dèyè mòn genyen mòn" (After the mountains, more mountains). The word "Haiti" means "land of mountains". The earthquake shook the mountains of Haiti and left thousands homeless and starving. God's Word can change the lives of people, giving them the faith, hope, and courage they need in the midst of terrible circumstances to put their lives back together again.

I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there and it will move, nothing will be impossible for you Matthew 17:20.

Written by Steve Keith with help from Missionary Tim Bower.

Any donations for the relief effort or for the ministry in Haiti should be sent to Tim and RoseAnne Bower through Open Door Baptist Mission, 1115 Pelham Rd., Greenville, S.C. 29615 (864-297-7890). All monies collected for the relief effort will be used for purchasing items for the Haitian people or for projects to help better the communities. Please mention that your donations go to the children of Fauche and a dollar of your donation to go to Madame Edner.



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## John P. Woolley Promoted Area Director Of Sales & Marketing



*Continued from Page B1*

He will continue his career in Mumbai, India as Area Director of Sales

& Marketing. In his new role Woolley will oversee all marketing efforts for 10 Marriott hotels in India, 6

properties in Malaysia and 2 in Pakistan.

In addition he'll be supporting the launch of 7 new Marriott hotels & resorts that are set to open in the next 12 months in India along with the opening of a 106-villa Marriott property on the Maldives. Another strong focus in his new role will be developing local talent. Among his many accomplishments, John and his team achieved record sales and marketing results for the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino that went through a major 50-million overhaul from 2007-2009.

He was also in charge of Tradewinds Club, a new hotel within a hotel concept that opened September 2008, providing guests with a more exclusive and upscale vacation experience.

Prior to his position at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, Woolley



served as Director of Sales & Marketing of the New York Marriott Financial Center. Woolley first joined the Marriott team in 2000 as Director of International

Accounts where he managed key Global Accounts for eight Marriott Hotels in New York City. In 2003, he was promoted to the position of Director of Sales and Marketing of the Renaissance New York Hotel Times Square. Woolley was also responsible for re-positioning and changing the business mix for the New York Marriott post-September 11th.

John will be missed in Aruba and the Marriott team wishes him, his wife Adrienne and 3 children all the best in India and continued success in his new role. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~





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# \*\*\*HUMAN HINTS\*\*\*

*Mirrors Within Your Hologram - Theory*

Let us begin today with the agreement that people do create their own realities. We can also agree that the three dimensional world is a hologram created by each

person and agreed to by the mass consciousness.

When each of us create the hologram, the information on what to build is contained

in each person's emotions, thoughts and beliefs about life. As children, we learn patterns of reaction from watching the adults in our lives. As we grow, our reactions and expectations come to be based on our past experiences. We react more automatically and unconsciously as life progresses. As we progress in life, we also learn what to expect based on our past experiences.

Eventually, we become unconscious programs. We react the way we always have, and we expect what we've always gotten from life. Your reactions and expectations in life define who you are as an individual. They are the program of you as an adult, written by your life.

Everyone will react slightly differently to any given situation or surprise, because your reactions and expectations act as a filter to all external input that we receive. Everyone filters the same information differently and interprets the same situation differently. This is why no two people and no two lives are identical. We each have our own filter. Humans create the three dimensional hologram based on the input we receive from the hologram, a perfectly efficient feedback loop with no loss. Within this hologram

that we create, are other people creating their own holograms. People can share holograms with each other only if they are similar in some way, if they agree upon a portion of the hologram. On Earth, we all agree on three dimensional form, and we each have unique experiences within that form.

This is why some people are in our lives and others are not. Have you ever seen a complete stranger numerous times in a day? Yet there are other people within the same physical proximity such as an office building, whose path you will never cross. You have something in common with the stranger you see often, and nothing in common with the person you don't ever see.

This is the basis of the theory that we are all mirrors of each other. It is a confusing and often angering idea that everyone we know is simply a mirror of ourselves. It is natural to reject the idea at first, because it conflicts with our sense of individuality and offends our ego, which is our greatest obstacle to enlightenment.

We create the hologram based on what we know from life, and we cannot create that which we do not know. We can only create

what is familiar to us.

Ponder this for a day. Allow your mind to expand and your ego to retreat. Tomorrow we will discuss how Mirror Theory can be used as a powerful tool of self discovery.

Until Tomorrow...


Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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<p><b>PG ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"</b></p>	<p>daily: 4:30</p> <p>matinee: 12:30 2:30 late show:</p>
<p><b>PG VALENTINE'S DAY</b></p>	<p>daily: 6:30 9:00</p> <p>matinee: 12:45 3:30 late show: 11:45</p>
<p><b>R THE WOLFMAN</b></p>	<p>daily: 6:00 8:45</p> <p>matinee: 12:15 3:00 late show: 11:30</p>
<p><b>R LEGION</b></p>	<p>daily: 7:00 9:30</p> <p>matinee: late show: 12:00</p>

**AT PASEO HERENCIA**

<p><b>PG EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>NEW</b></span></p>	<p>daily: 6:00 8:30</p> <p>matinee: 1:00 3:30 late show: 11:00</p>
<p><b>PG-13 DEAR JOHN</b></p>	<p>daily: 6:15 8:45</p> <p>matinee: 1:15 3:45 late show: 11:30</p>
<p><b>PG PERCY JACKSON &amp; THE OLYMPIANS</b></p>	<p>daily: 5:30 8:15</p> <p>matinee: 12:00 2:45 late show: 11:00</p>
<p><b>R THE BOOK OF ELI</b></p>	<p>daily: 6:00 9:00</p> <p>matinee: 12:15 3:00 late show: 11:45</p>
<p><b>R FROM PARIS WITH LOVE</b></p>	<p>daily: 4:00 6:15 8:30</p> <p>matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:00</p>
<p><b>PG-13 AVATAR</b> </p>	<p>daily: 4:45 8:00</p> <p>matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:15</p>

**Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat**



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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# Post Aruba NV Opens a Branch at Palm Beach Plaza



*Continued from Page B1*

By checking into the tourist sector Van Nederkassel hopes to successfully launch a new flat rate service, a new philatelic service, namely the personalized stamp, parcel



and much more.

Casa Tua Mediterranean catered the cocktail party with delicious specialties of the new restaurant including Greek-style shrimp, Mussels Marinara and authentic Couscous. The minister representative Guido Reizinger helped cut the ribbon announcing the new Post Office branch open for business, daily from 10 am to 10 pm.

shipping at a reasonable price, priority service, courier service, messenger service

Pictured here opening party pictures, with guests and dignitaries in attendance. □



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*Ambassadors of Goodwill*  
*Deborah and Dick Miller*

Photo by Diane Keijzer



## SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

**MAGIC Live!. Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1***At the Westin Aruba at 9.PM nightly*

Magician Adam Steinfeld laughs it up, on stage, at the Magic Live!® theater, showroom.

ASTONISHING! EXCITING! MYSTIFYING! FUN! ...enjoy a hilarious evening of Magic, fun for entire family.

PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live!

Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



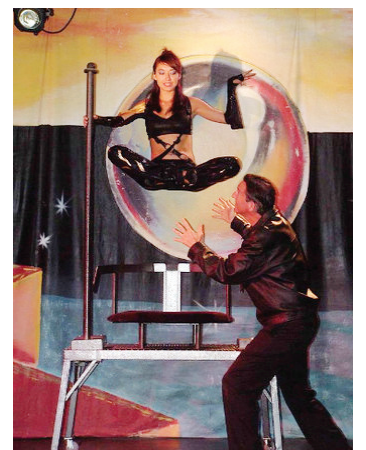
and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □

**IF YOU GO**

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show

Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)

Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld

Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm

Tickets: at the door

Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults

Group Sales: 561-1090

website: www.MagicLive.com

Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

## Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

**Catch your own dinner**

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

**Rates:**

\$360 - 1/2 day

\$720- full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

**Driftwood Restaurant**

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

**Driftwood Restaurant**

*Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant*

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

Tel: (297) 583 2515

[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.





# DJ Yeimy rocks the night at Hard Rock Café Aruba



PALM BEACH – Everyone had a dancing great time at the Hard Rock Café Aruba on Thursday night as one of Aruba's most popular DJ's ripped out the best music ever. DJ Yeimy pulled out all the stops as both islanders and tourists enjoyed the fabulous



atmosphere and great drink specials. Hard Rock Café is kickin' back rock 'n' roll style in Aruba. Hard Rock Aruba offers a brand new Café on the Palm Beach hotel strip with a 360 plus seating capacity in our indoor dining room or outside terrace, a live music stage, and Rock Shop filled with our famous collectibles. Priceless memorabilia ranging from world famous artists like the Beach Boys to more contemporary rockers like Metallica adorns our walls, and our friendly staff waits, to transform you into raving Hard Rock Aruba fans with cocktails and specialties from our world famous menu. It's all here... at the Hard Rock Café Aruba. Join us. □

*Photos by Julia Renfro*





# Judge reopens investigation into director's licence case

PHILIPSBURG--A judge in the Court of First Instance has reopened the investigation into the appeal filed by the owners of a bar and restaurant against the Executive Council's decision to turn down their request for a director's licence for one of their employers.

The owners of The Crew's Nest Bar and Restaurant NV had filed a so-called administrative LAR procedure against the Executive Council's decision to reject the request, which it based on the fact that, like Dutch nationals, the Federal Ordinance Foreign Workers (LAV) would also not be applicable to nationals of the United States.

In his ruling of Monday, February 22, Judge René van Veen agreed that under the Friendship Treaty closed between the Dutch Kingdom and the United States on December 5, 1957, US

citizens should be treated equally to European Dutch in the Netherlands Antilles.

He therefore decided to reopen the investigation, which will be resumed on April 19. During that session the legal representatives of The Crew's Nest Bar and the Island Government are to provide answers concerning the legal framework of the director's licences and the rules for director's licences for European Dutch.

The restaurant had filed a request for a director's licence in January 2007, which was turned down by the Executive Council in May 2008 based on the fact that a work permit for the same person had been turned down in March 2006.

According to the Executive Council, the request for a director's licence was a veiled attempt to gain access to the local labour market, and to

circumvent the LAV and the Federal Ordinance Admission and Expulsion (LTU).

The restaurant owners appealed the Executive Council's decision in November 2008, but the Island Council followed the Executive Council's position on this matter in March 2009. The Island Council agreed that the Dutch-American Friendship Treaty was also applicable in the Netherlands Antilles. But according to the Island Council, the plaintiffs overlooked the fact that director's licences are only granted to persons who have invested a considerable amount of money in the company, or are planning to do so, or are involved in the development or leadership of a company.

The applicant for the licence had been working illegally on the island since 1994 and had been working at the

company as a bartender and boat captain, which meant the LAV was applicable to him, the Island Council stated. A previous request to obtain a work permit for the bartender had been turned down.

According to the Island Government, the man had never received a work permit or temporary residence permit for St. Maarten, which was also reason to turn down the request for a licence.

The plaintiffs had stated that

no difference should be made between European Dutch and residents of the United States. They had further brought to the judge's attention that the man in question in fact had a leading position within the company because the co-director and owner of the company was on the island for only six months per year. They claimed that during the last "winter season" the company had yielded a "record profit" under the man's leadership. □

## Both Laveist and Prosecutors file appeals with High Court

PHILIPSBURG--Former commissioner Louie Laveist and the Prosecutor's Office both have filed appeals with the High Court in The Hague.

Following a statement made by Laveist's attorney Cor Merx on Wednesday, Solicitor General Ton van der Schans said Thursday that the Prosecutor's Office in Curaçao also had decided to go in "cassation" at the High Court concerning Laveist's conviction by the Joint Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

Merx and Van der Schans both refrained from providing any details concerning the nature of the appeals at the High Court.

Merx said his client was "generally happy" with the Joint Court's verdict, but he wanted

the High Court to look at certain "technical details."

The Joint Court partially vindicated Island Councilman Louie Laveist on February 11. On appeal, the embattled politician was acquitted of forgery and fraud, but was found guilty on two counts of bribery. He was given a suspended prison sentence of six months with three years' probation, payment of a NAf. 5,000 fine or 55 days in jail, and a ban from civil service for three years.

The Court of First Instance had sentenced Laveist to 18 months, nine of which were suspended, with three years' probation, a NAf. 5,000 fine and a ban from holding office for five years. □

## 240 interested in working for Country St. Maarten

PHILIPSBURG--The first round of recruitment to fill openings that will come online in Country St. Maarten has progressed well, with some 240 persons responding to ads placed in St. Maarten, the Netherlands and other countries abroad.

Some 40 ads had been placed inviting persons to apply for openings that will become available.

The applications received will be reviewed, Personnel Affairs Commissioner Xavier Blackman said Thursday. An

additional 40 openings will be advertised soon.

There are between 150 and 170 critical functions to be filled for Country St. Maarten.

The Personnel Affairs Commissioner also met with Director of the St. Maarten Student Support Services (S4) Marva Richardson on Thursday to discuss, amongst other things, bolstering recruitment efforts.

Blackman said they discussed S4's participation in the upcoming Passaat

Recruitment Drive (PRD) in the Netherlands in May and the need to encourage St. Maarten students to attend.

A delegation from St. Maarten, which will include the commissioner and a representative of St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is expected to attend the recruitment drive.

Blackman and Richardson also fine-tuned plans for the two information sessions the commissioner will hold in The Hague and Amsterdam in March. □

## Questions remain

By announcing that Haitians living illegally in the Netherlands Antilles will have temporary immunity from repatriation, Justice Minister Magali Jacoba has at least addressed one major concern regarding the large-scale immigration controls scheduled to start Monday, March 1, following the process to regulate long-time undocumented residents who qualify under the Brooks Tower Accord (BTA). After all, sending them back to earthquake-ravaged Haiti at this point in time is hardly an option.

However, details of the plan are still to be revealed, including exactly what is meant by saying that to qualify for the exemption the Haitians involved must be registered as undocumented residents. Do those who did not try to make use of the BTA process have only today, Friday to register? And where must they go to do so?

In addition, there is serious concern locally about the lack of appropriate detention space also for future deportees of other nationalities, as the St. Maarten Bar Association recently pointed out. Not only are the conditions under which they are currently being held pending repatriation along with suspected criminals at the Philipsburg police station cells internationally unacceptable, but there simply isn't enough room available for the large number of foreigners expected to be picked up when the controls resume after having been suspended in light of the BTA process for close to four months.

The minister realises this and says the controls for now will not be at the desired scale for lack of both personnel and detention space. However, one still has to wonder exactly where the limit will be set and by whom, considering the already overcrowded cells.

In addition, there are still many reports of people who believe they have qualified for temporary residence permits under the BTA umbrella, but are yet to receive their permits or even hear anything from authorities. The BTA coordinator in St. Maarten stated last week that her staff would be able to finish reviewing the majority of the applications and contact those involved by the end of the month, but "most" is not "all" and the question is: What happens with the remaining "minority"?

The people who had not heard anything yet on that occasion were asked to "have a little more patience," but with just one working day left before March 1, time is fast running out for them. As stated before, if all applications have not been properly processed by Monday, authorities are going to have to take that into account or risk numerous lawsuits by foreign workers to be repatriated while they still await word on their BTA applications, and possibly by the local businesses that may be negatively impacted or even unjustly fined. □





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2BR	WK 6/7	ROOM 217	T.H.	\$ 20.000 PW
STU	WK 7/8	ROOM 317	G.V.	\$ 7.000 PW

### LA CABANA BEACH RESORT

2BR	WK 7/8	ROOM 146E	O.F.	\$ 17.000 PW
2BR	WK 8	ROOM 301 E	O.F.	\$ 20.000
1BR DLX	WK 9	ROOM 401 D	O.F.	\$ 20.000

### DIVI VILLAGE

STU	WK 10	ROOM 3101	P.V.	\$ 11.000
STU	WK 11	ROOM 8202	P.O.	\$ 11.000

### DIVI PHOENIX

STU	WK 7	ROOM 105	P.O.	\$ 11.500
2BR	WK 5	ROOM 206	P.O.	\$ 17.000
1BR	WK 8	ROOM 606	O.V.	\$ 11.000
2BR	WK 9/10	ROOM 211	P.O.	\$ 20.000 PW
1BR	WK 8	ROOM 734	P.O.	\$ 20.000

### CASA DEL MAR

2BR	WK 9	ROOM 1208	P.O.	\$ 18.000
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### DUTCH VILLAGE

STU	WK 8/9	ROOM 133	P.V.	\$ 10.000 PW
STU	WK 12	ROOM 125	P.O.	\$ 6.000
STU	WK 12	ROOM 119	P.O.	\$ 6.000
1BR	WK 7	ROOM 127	P.O.	\$ 6.000
1BR	WK 8	ROOM 87	P.O.	\$ 8.000
2BR	WK 11	ROOM 46/49	P.V.	\$ 17.000
STU	WK 9	ROOM 123	P.O.	\$ 7.000
1BR	WK 9	ROOM 114	P.V.	\$ 8.000
1BR	WK 10	ROOM 28	P.V.	\$ 8.000

**For more info: 731-2012**

**E-mail: [johnnypaesch@yahoo.com](mailto:johnnypaesch@yahoo.com)**

## Dokter na Warda



ORANJESTAD

SAN NICOLAAS

Dr. Cheung

## Botica na warda

Oranjestad:

Botica Percusonstraat

San Nicolaas:



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Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolaas	584-5000

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Emergencia	911
Polis	100
Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
Tipline di Polis	11141
Hospital	587-4300

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Warda Polis	582-4000
BGD Oranjestad	582-8877

## San Nicolas

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Warda Polis	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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Informacion	118
Kadaster	582-1311
Serlimar	584-6456
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Web	585-4600
Voogdijraad	582-1262
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Bureau Sostenenem	588-1010
Professional Taxi	588-0035
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Grupo DDHH

# Cinco disidentes cubanos, en huelga de hambre

LA HABANA (Reuters) - Cinco disidentes cubanos se declararon en huelga de hambre para pedir la liberación de los presos políticos tras la muerte esta semana de un opositor después de 85 días de ayuno, dijeron el viernes activistas.

La Comisión Cubana de Derechos Humanos dijo que las protestas fueron motivadas por el deceso el martes de Orlando Zapata, un preso político en huelga de hambre desde diciembre pasado para protestar por sus condiciones de detención.

Cuatro presos dejaron de ingerir alimentos en dos cárceles de la provincia de Pinar del Río, en el extremo occidental de Cuba, dijo el grupo en un comunicado.

También en la ciudad central de Santa Clara, 270 kilómetros al este de la capital, el disidente Guillermo Fariñas empezó en la noche del martes una huelga de hambre y sed para exigir la liberación de 27 presos políticos que,



Cubanos reunidos en memoria del preso político Orlando Zapata, quien murió el martes en una huelga de hambre, en la Havana. Feb 26 2010. Cinco disidentes cubanos se declararon en huelga de hambre para pedir la liberación de los presos políticos tras la muerte esta semana de un opositor después de 85 días de ayuno, dijeron el viernes activistas. REUTERS/Enrique De La Osa

dijo, están graves.

“La llama que encendió Zapata con su rebeldía no debe dejarse que se apague”, dijo Fariñas a Reuters por teléfono. “Si tenemos que inmolarnos, nos inmolaremos para

demostrar al mundo que la muerte de Zapata no fue una casualidad”, añadió.

Fariñas, un psicólogo de 48 años, hizo en el 2006 una huelga de hambre de varios meses para reclamar libre acceso de

internet. Eventualmente fue internado y alimentado por vía intravenosa.

La muerte esta semana de Zapata, un plomero de 42 años que cumplía una condena de más de 25 años de prisión, fue criticada por países amigos y enemigos. Estados Unidos, la Unión Europea, España y otras naciones pidieron a Cuba que libere a sus presos políticos. El presidente cubano, Raúl Castro, dijo lamentar la muerte, pero responsabilizó de ella a Estados Unidos, al que acusa de apoyar a los disidentes.

Cuba dice que en sus cárceles no hay presos políticos, sino “mercenarios” reclutados por Estados Unidos para destruir su sistema socialista. □

*Hablando de energía,*

## Hugo Chávez se le va la luz

CARACAS (Reuters) - No pudo pasar en peor momento: cuando el presidente Hugo Chávez explicaba a la prensa cómo su Gobierno logrará que Venezuela salga airosa de una grave crisis eléctrica, un repentino y embarazoso apagón dejó a media luz y mudo al locuaz comandante.

En medio de su discurso transmitido en vivo por la televisión estatal, las enormes y potentes lámparas del Salón Ayacucho se apagaron y el evento salió inmediatamente del aire, levantando dudas y temores sobre el desafortunado incidente, originado por una falla en una planta eléctrica.

Chávez estuvo en silencio por instantes revisando con calma unos papeles antes de comenzar a preguntar qué había ocurrido, mientras sus funcionarios corrían ajetreados tratando de averiguar y enmendar el incómodo problema.

El apagón ocurrió precisamente cuando hacía referencia a su archienemigo, el ex presidente estadounidense George W. Bush.

Uno de sus ministros se acercó al militar retirado para explicarle que el fallo ocurrió cuando trataban de cambiar el suministro desde una planta de electricidad que surte al palacio hacia el sistema de energía corriente.

Pero a Chávez no le gustó mucho la explicación. Dijo que eso no podía hacerse en medio de un evento, al que fueron convocados medios internacionales de prensa así como periodistas locales. Durante la conferencia, Chávez explicó una vez más los planes de su Gobierno para enfrentar la crisis de electricidad en el país petrolero, donde el racionamiento y los apagones le está costando puntos de popularidad meses antes de unas elecciones legislativas. □

## Perú sugiere crear órgano regional que limite compras militares

LIMA (AP) - El mandatario Alan García sugirió el viernes crear un organismo latinoamericano que limite las compras militares y criticó a la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) por carecer de políticas claras respecto a la carrera armamentista de varios países de la región. “Así como existe una Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, debería existir un organismo que limite, que equilibre las compras militares para que cesen amenazas de un país contra otro o contra varios”, dijo García a periodistas.

El presidente sostuvo que “el armamentismo cunde en Latinoamérica y en el continente y sobre eso la OEA no tiene un pronunciamiento claro y no tiene normas”.

Añadió que “la necesidad que tenemos todos los países de detener los elevados gastos de defensa deben ser el tema primordial” del siguiente secretario general de la OEA.

El presidente dijo que Perú no ha decidido

aún si votará el 24 de marzo por la reelección en la secretaría general de la OEA del chileno José Miguel Insulza, pero ha repetido su desencanto por la existencia de un solo candidato.

El 23 de septiembre García mostró en Lima su desacuerdo con el papel poco protagónico de la OEA para detener la compra de armas en la región, al punto de sostener que si la OEA no es capaz de frenar “la locura del armamentismo” no tendrá sentido su existencia.

En octubre el mandatario peruano emprendió una campaña internacional dirigida a frenar las compras de armamento con poco éxito hasta el momento.

El miércoles el canciller José García Belaunde sostuvo en una entrevista por Radioprogramas que “pretender que (la OEA) es una especie de guardián de la democracia en América o cosa por el estilo me parece que eso es ya más difícil”. □



# Corte Colombia comienza reunión para votar referendo reelección

BOGOTA (Reuters) - La Corte Constitucional de Colombia comenzó el viernes una trascendental reunión en la que deberá votar sobre la legalidad de un referendo que podría habilitar al presidente Alvaro Uribe para ser candidato y buscar su segunda reelección inmediata. Una fuente del tribunal informó que los nueve magistrados comenzaron su reunión de sala plena en la que cada uno intervendrá y expondrá sus argumentos jurídicos antes de votar. Fuentes judiciales y políticas aseguran que la Corte Constitucional declarará ilegal la convocatoria a un referendo para permitir a Uribe buscar su segunda reelección consecutiva en los comicios de mayo, acabando con el sueño del mandatario de prolongar su mandato hasta el 2014.

La decisión jurídica, la más importante de los últimos años en la política colombiana, marcará el inicio de una difícil campaña para los rivales que buscan reemplazar a Uribe, quien después de casi ocho años en el poder se convirtió en uno de los presidentes más populares del país, respaldado por su estrategia para combatir a las guerrillas izquierdistas. Uribe, el aliado más importante de Estados Unidos en América Latina en momentos en que gobernantes de izquierda como el venezolano Hugo Chávez mantiene un fuerte protagonismo en la región, no ha expresado abiertamente su intención de ser candidato para una segunda reelección. Pero recientes hechos, de acuerdo con analistas y políticos, demuestran su deseo de continuar gobernando este país de más de 44 millones de habitantes exportador de café, petróleo y carbón. □



Imagen de archivo del presidente de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, durante una conferencia de prensa en la casa presidencial en Tegucigalpa. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido/archivo

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